



Smithsonian
*Freer Gallery of Art and
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery*

Langdon Warner Report

Original finding aid prepared by Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur
M. Sackler Gallery Archives staff. 2020 revision by Sadie Ouzts.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	Langdon Warner Report
Date:	1915
Identifier:	FSA.A1994.07
Creator:	Warner, Langdon (1881-1955)
Extent:	2 Copies (Two copies of a bound volume of 226 typed pages, with 48 mounted silver gelatin prints with captions, 194p; 29 x 22 cm.)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): The Warner Report Image(s): The Warner Report Image(s): The Warner Report

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift 1994

Other Archival Materials

Langdon Warner Papers, circa late 18th century-1987 (bulk 1900-1959). Houghton Library, Harvard University

Langdon Warner Photograph Collection, 1903-1950. Houghton Library, Harvard University.

Langdon Warner Records, 1916-1929 (bulk 1917-1923). Philadelphia Museum of Art Archives.

Available Formats

This report is also available in the Freer Gallery Library Call No: 907.51 .A5W21 with a copy of the December 5, 1914 minutes of the Executive Committee of the proposed American School of Archaeology in Peking.

Citation

The Warner Report, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., Gift of Katherine Graham, 1994.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Biographical / Historical

Langdon Warner was an archaeologist and historian of Asian art in the first half of the 20th century. He was born on August 1, 1881 in Cambridge, Massachusetts and educated at Harvard University, which he graduated from in 1903. Between acting in various positions at museums across the country, most

notably the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Nelson-Atkins Museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the Harvard Fogg Museum of Art, he travelled extensively in Asia. Including an 1913-14 trip sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution to explore the possibility of founding an American School of Chinese Archaeology in Beijing. Accompanied by his wife, their journey included visits to Europe, Japan, Korea, China, and Indochina. He spoke with scholars, administrators, and officials, and travelled to museums and archaeological sites. He compiled a two-part report: a summary of his travels and a series of recommendations for the proposed school.

During World War II, Warner taught a course on Japanese language, culture, and history to Civil Affairs Officers and acted as a Special Consultant for the U.S. Army's Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives program, the so-called "Monuments Men." He created the Official List of Monuments for Japan, China, Korea, and Thailand. Warner spent the summer of 1946 working as an Expert Consultant to the Arts and Monuments Division of the Civil Information and Education Section under the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. Upon his return to Massachusetts, he resumed working at the Fogg Museum of Art until his retirement in 1950. During his career, he wrote numerous books on Asian art such as *The Enduring Art of Japan*, *The Long Old Road in China*, and *Japanese Sculpture of the Tempyo Period: Masterpieces of the Eighth Century*. Warner died on June 9, 1955 in Cambridge, Massachusetts and was posthumously awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasures by the Japanese government for his efforts to preserve Japanese art and monuments during and after the war.

Scope and Contents

A report prepared by archaeologist and art historian Langdon Warner on his travels of 1913-1914 to investigate the founding of an American school of Chinese archaeology to be established in Beijing. Warner's travels included Europe, Japan, Korea, China and Indo-China. Warner spoke with scholars, administrators and officials, and travelled to museums and archaeological sites. Warner traveled with his wife. The report contains two parts; the first being a summary of his travels, and the second, a series of recommendations for the proposed school.

Bibliography

Langdon Warner Through his Letters. Edited by Theodore Bowie. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1966.

Local Numbers

FSA A1994.07

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Archaeology
Art, Asian -- Collectors and collecting

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Reports

Names:

Warner, Langdon (1881-1955)

Places:

Angkor Wat (Cambodia)

China

Japan